

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Three Times Amended): A sweetener composition, comprising a mixture of:

- (a) N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- $\alpha$ -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine-1-methyl ester; and
- (b) Acesulfame K,

wherein said Acesulfame K is present in said mixture in an amount of 50 to 97% by weight based on the total amount of said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- $\alpha$ -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester and said Acesulfame K and wherein said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- $\alpha$ -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester comprises a C-type crystal ~~or an A-type crystal~~.

Please cancel Claims 2 and 8-10.

12. (Three Times Amended): A method for preparing a drink composition, comprising dissolving:

(A) a mixture, comprising

- (a) N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- $\alpha$ -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester;
- and

(b) Acesulfame K;

and in

(B) a potable liquid,

wherein said Acesulfame K is present in said mixture in an amount of 50 to 97% by weight based on the total amount of said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- $\alpha$ -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester and said Acesulfame

K and wherein said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- $\alpha$ -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester comprises a C-type crystal ~~or an A-type crystal~~.

14. (Three Times Amended): A method for producing a sweetener, comprising:

(1) mixing N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- $\alpha$ -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester with Acesulfame K, to obtain a mixture, wherein said Acesulfame K is present in said mixture in an amount of 50 to 97% by weight based on the total weight of said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- $\alpha$ -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester and said Acesulfame K and wherein said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- $\alpha$ -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester comprises a C-type crystal ~~or an A-type crystal~~.

16. (Three Times Amended) A method for improving the dissolution rate of N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- $\alpha$ -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester, comprising:

(1) mixing said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- $\alpha$ -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester with Acesulfame K, prior to dissolving said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- $\alpha$ -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester, to obtain a mixture, wherein said Acesulfame K is present in said mixture in an amount of 50 to 97% by weight based on the total weight of said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- $\alpha$ -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester and said Acesulfame K and wherein said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- $\alpha$ -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester comprises a C-type crystal ~~or an A-type crystal~~.